

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-7 as follows:

C<sup>2</sup> 1. An interferometric coupler for controlling radiation proceeding therethrough,  
the coupler comprising:  
at least one input for conveying radiation incident to the coupler,  
at least one output for conveying radiation from the coupler,  
a first amplifying part (2) for amplifying the incident radiation, and  
a second transparent part (4) to guide radiation previously amplified in the first part.

2. An interferometric coupler for controlling radiation proceeding therethrough,  
the coupler comprising:  
at least one input for conveying radiation incident to the coupler,  
at least one output for conveying radiation from the coupler,  
a first amplifying part (2) for amplifying the incident radiation, and  
a second transparent part (4) to guide radiation previously amplified in the first part;  
wherein the first and second parts are separated by a curved interface (6).

C<sup>1</sup> 3. An interferometric coupler for controlling radiation proceeding therethrough,  
the coupler comprising:  
at least one input for conveying radiation incident to the coupler,  
at least one output for conveying radiation from the coupler,  
a first amplifying part (2) for amplifying the incident radiation, and  
a second transparent part (4) to guide radiation previously amplified in the first part;  
wherein the first and second parts are separated by a V-shaped interface (6).

4. An interferometric coupler for controlling radiation proceeding therethrough,  
the coupler comprising:  
at least one input for conveying radiation incident to the coupler,  
at least one output for conveying radiation from the coupler,  
a first amplifying part (2) for amplifying the incident radiation, and  
a second transparent part (4) to guide radiation previously amplified in the first part;  
wherein the first and second parts are separated by a zigzag shaped interface (6).

1 5. An interferometric coupler for controlling radiation proceeding therethrough,  
2 the coupler comprising:  
3 at least one input for conveying radiation incident to the coupler,  
4 at least one output for conveying radiation from the coupler,  
5 a first amplifying part (2) for amplifying the incident radiation, and  
6 a second transparent part (4) to guide radiation previously amplified in the first part;  
7 wherein the first and second parts are separated by an inclined interface (6) on a path  
8 of input (8) and output (10) rays.

1 6. An interferometric coupler for controlling radiation proceeding therethrough,  
2 the coupler comprising:  
3 at least one input for conveying radiation incident to the coupler,  
4 at least one output for conveying radiation from the coupler,  
5 a first amplifying part (2) for amplifying the incident radiation, and  
6 a second transparent part (4) to guide radiation previously amplified in the first part;  
7 wherein the first and second parts are laid out to be approximately perpendicular to a  
8 path of an incident beam (8) and an output beam (10).

C<sup>3</sup> 1 7. The coupler according to any of claims 1-6, wherein a signal mode guide is  
2 placed at the output.

#### REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

The applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication of the allowability of claims 3-6, 7/3-7/5, 12/3-12/5, 13/3-13/5, 14/3-14/5, and 15/3-15/5. The applicants also note that these allowable claims, along with the rest of the pending claims, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 1-7 are amended to address these concerns. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

Attention is now directed to the rejection of claims as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,228,049 to Paoli. As noted within the Office action, the Paoli patent is directed to a semi-conductor laser. It is to be appreciated that the semi-conductor laser of Paoli is a device for the production of radiation. The semi-conductor laser of the Paoli patent is not a device that controls radiation proceeding therethrough. Specifically, the laser of the Paoli patent does not include at least one input for conveying radiation incident to the Paoli